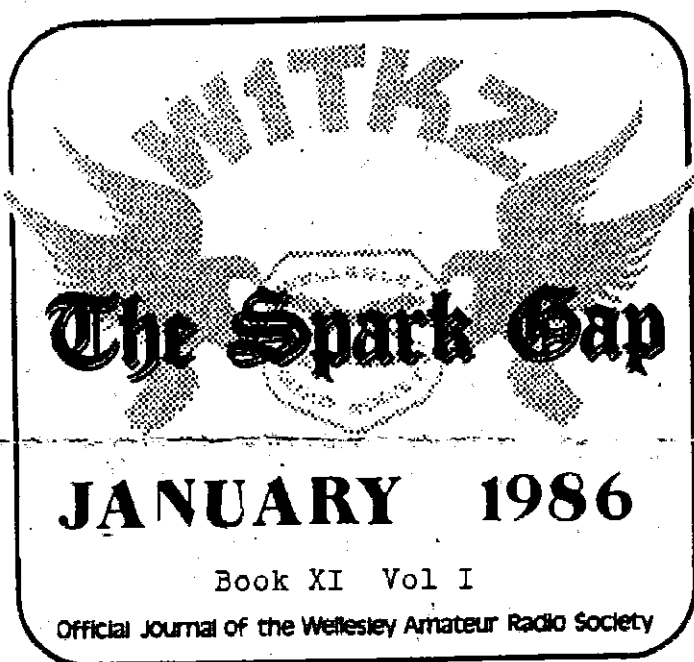




President's Message

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

Hi everyone, I hope you all had a happy and safe holiday season. January leads us into the cold of winter (as if December wasn't cold) and many Ham activities retire to the indoors and to HF. But don't be dismayed because there's plenty of good ham activities to participate in. The January VHF Sweepstakes happens this month. This is a favorite among many club members with the declining sunspots. We hope to fire up WITKZ or some other suitable call for this one.

We have a Novice class starting up on the 6th of January; all are welcome to come down and show some of your enthusiasm for Ham radio to these newcomers. Particularly we are looking for demonstrations for the class members. Repeaters, HF, are possible things that you might discuss after the class.

Don't forget the code practice ses-

sions held at 7:00 p.m., just prior to the meetings on the first and third Thursdays. These sessions will be hosted by Vern Valero, N1DSZ, who will help you go for that next level of license be it General or Extra.

With the doldrums of winter we hope to keep your interest in W.A.R.S. and radio in general.

One last thing before I leave you to reading the rest of your Spark Gap is that we need your input for this newsletter. If we don't have any articles to publish then it isn't worth sending a newsletter out to you. Think of ham or electronics related stories from real life or make something silly up that would be appreciated by the readers of this newsletter and send it to Nels Anderson, K1UR at his address listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Don't forget, if you haven't yet paid your dues for this year, this will be your last Spark Gap. If you haven't please send \$10 to C.J. McDonald at (48 Hale Street, Newton, MA 02164) or to the club address at 211 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02181.

education corner



We will be starting a Novice Class this month. The class which will run for 13 sessions will start Monday, January 6. Each class will be held from 7-9 p.m. There is no cost and no pre-registration required, and the class will meet at the Red Cross building, 211 Washington Street. For further information contact Vern or Liz Valero at 533-6822.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

January 2, 1986, at 7:30 p.m.
 January 16, 1986, at 7:30 p.m.
 211 Washington St., Wellesley

Public Service

Wellesley Amateur Radio Society
147.63/03 WITKZ Repeater
Emergency Autodial Codes

- #50 Clear - REQUIRED to hang up phone
- 500 Timer Reset
- 200 Newton/Wellesley Hosp. switchboard
- 201 Wellesley Fire
- 202 Weston Police
- 203 Weston Fire and Ambulance
- 204 State Police, Weston, Turnpike
- 205 Massachusetts Civil Defense
- 206 Newton Police, Fire, Ambulance
- 207 Waltham Police and Ambulance
- 208 Waltham Fire
- 209 MDC Police
- 210 Needham Police
- 211 Wellesley Police and Ambulance
- 212 Needham Fire
- 213 Boston Police
- 214 Boston Fire
- 215 Coast Guard
- 216 Watertown Police
- 217 Watertown Fire
- 218 Brookline Police
- 219 Brookline Fire
- 220 Cambridge Police
- 221 Cambridge Fire
- 222 Arlington Police
- 223 Arlington Fire
- 224 Lincoln Police and Fire
- 225 Dedham Police
- 226 Dedham Fire
- 227 Medford Police
- 228 Medford Fire and Ambulance
- 229 Somerville Police and Ambulance
- 230 Somerville Fire
- 231 Winchester Police
- 232 Winchester Fire and Ambulance
- 233 Wellesley Civil Defense
- 234 Wellesley Chapter,
American Red Cross
- 236 C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM
(Control Operator)

If you have a situation that requires some other agency not listed, contact the Newton/Wellesley Hospital operator (Key in 200) and explain the situation. They will be glad to help.

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

This month we would like to welcome Greg Livingston, WA2EHV, as a new club member. Greg is from Wellesley.

BULLETIN

On May 31, 1985, a tornado swept through Trumbull County, Ohio, and Mercer County, Pennsylvania. In its wake, 24 were left dead.

The loss of life might have been avoided if the Youngstown, Ohio office of the National Weather Service had mobilized a group of trained ham radio weather spotters, according to findings in a 69 page report issued by the Severe Weather Branch of the NWS.

"The report has brought about changes in procedures for dealing with local storms," said James Campbell, acting Chief of the branch. The report concluded:

"Had ham radio operators been on duty at the Youngstown office, reports from spotters could have been relayed to the Cleveland office." Tnx DARA.

Westlink Report, December 13, 1985

OFFICERS

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REPEATER COMMITTEE:

Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



EDITOR:

NELS ANDERSON, K1UR
92 BISHOP DRIVE
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701
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THE "SPARK GAP" IS THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS \$10.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



Hamnews

Dan Sullivan, WD8IDZ, of Sultronics, an Ohio-based distributor of Amateur and commercial radio gear, recently received an interesting phone call from Will Fowler of Moseles West Productions of Huntington Beach, California. Moseles provides technical props for television shows such as The A-Team, Knight Rider and Falcon Crest. It seems that Amateur Radio is to be included in an upcoming episode of the hit show "Air Wolf" in a script titled "Where Have All The Children Gone." Fowler was in need of Amateur antennas that would fit in with the high tech scheme of the show. Sullivan suggested and supplied a VHF-UHF Discone antenna and an HF sloper both of which

are his design. Other props will include a Yaesu transceiver and some computers. The antennas are also slated to be used in upcoming episodes of the A-Team, Knight Rider and Misfits of Science. Thanks DARA.

Westlink Report, December 13, 1985

A Washington Secret Service spokeswoman has put ham radio operators and criminals in the same category, according to an Associated Press story of November 17.

The main thrust of the story dealt with statements made by Rep. Glen English (D-Oklahoma) and Sen. Dennis De Concini (D-Arizona) regarding their concern that drug dealers and terrorists have the ability to monitor government frequencies, including those used by Presidential vehicles.

The two legislators claim that this ability to monitor has placed President Reagan in "grave danger," and has impeded law enforcement action against drug dealers. However, it is the statement of Jane Vezeris, speaking for the Secret Service, during a 62 page list seized during a drug raid last September 15th, that bears our scrutiny.

In assessing the list of 1000 communications channels, Ms. Vezeris said: "The Agency is very much aware that anyone, at any time, can be monitoring our radio frequencies in the clear, including criminals and ham radio operators."

From the description of the list in the AP wire story, it appears to be one that anyone can buy at the local electronics store for about five bucks. It's also far from secret.

More important, though, is the view that the Secret Service takes of our service. No wonder our country is having so much of a problem with security these days. If the Secret Service thinks that hams are equivalent to criminals, we can only shudder at what they might consider CB operators to be.

In our view, Ms. Vezeris and the Secret Service owe the half million US

Westlink Report, December 13, 1985

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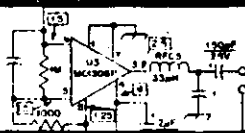
TAPR manufactured 1200 of these, but has now sold the manufacturing rights to AEA, who will shortly introduce a wired and tested version of the former TAPR kit.

Westlink Report, December 13, 1985

OUR CALLS, WHY ALL THE FUSS?

from Dayton RF Carrier

To a non-Amateur, the pride we take in our calls sometimes seems humorous. Even FCC Chairman Fowler says, "Amateurs have a fetish about their calls." Well, it's true, we do have a fetish about our calls and rightly so. How many people can say their given name is the only name exactly like that in the whole world? Very, very few indeed, but to an Amateur his call is his second name and that call is the only call in the entire world. When someone refers to that call anywhere in the world, they are referring to one specific person. So, no wonder we take pride in them and never object to being referred to by our calls. As any writer learns first hand, you can write bad things about a person, you can misspell his name and do all kinds of despicable things but if you foul up his call--head for the hills!



by WE40, in The DXtra
via ARNS

GMT was based on solar time, i.e., the earth's orbit around the sun. It was, if you wish, astronomical time. Because the orbit of the earth around the sun is not circular, corrections had to be made, thus creating "mean solar time." The system served us well for many years until something better came along in the form of atomic oscillators.

In fact, the new UTC system, which was adopted in 1971 and became effective in 1972, is a compromise between the scientist's desire for a uniform time scale and the navigator's need for solar time, which is referred to as UT1. UTC is maintained by atomic clocks at a uniform scale up to an error of 9/10 of a second compared to the navigators time. At that point a leap second is introduced as correction. If you listen carefully to WWV, you may hear the double ticks or pulses after the start of each minute. This gives you the UTC - UT1 correction, in units of 0.1 second. The location of the double tick within the minute gives the sign (+ or -) of the correction.

WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

3 January 1986

Meeting announcement

Addendum to January 1986 SPARK GAP

The 16 January 1986 meeting of the W.A.R.S will not, repeat, not, be held at the Wellesley Red Cross Building. Instead, we will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Continental Cablevision Headend Facility on Tower Road, Newton.

Mr. Raymond Fournier, District Field Engineer and Mr. Timothy J. Carvis (WULP), Assistant District Field Engineer; both of Continental Cablevision will give an overview of the cable television system serving Newton, Needham, Wellesley, Weston, and Wayland.

This facility is located about 600 feet beyond the Channel 7 TV tower, hence the name, Tower Road, Newton. Tower Road is off Needham Street, Newton which is the extension of Highland Avenue, Needham. There is a Papa Gino's restaurant at the corner of Tower Road and Needham Street. To get there from Route 128 (or I95 if you prefer), get off on the Highland Avenue exit that takes you to Newton, drive north towards Route 9 about one-half mile and turn left at Papa Gino's. To get there from Route 9, turn off on the Centre Street exit and head for Needham. Again, drive about one-half mile and turn right at Papa Gino's. In either case, you have the Channel 7 TV tower as a landmark (At a height of some 1200 feet this is hard to miss).

Mr. Fournier and Mr. Carvis will talk about the system, show us the plant, and answer any questions you may have. You can bone up on this tour by reading the latest QST which has an article on just this subject.

Talk-in will be provided on the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society repeater (147.63 MHz in, 147.03 MHz out).

Don't miss this interesting meeting at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, 16 January 1986.

73

C.J. McDonald
C.J. Mc Donald
WB1BUM